

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 087125
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER:JD
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
L:HHANSELL
IO:CMAYNES
INR:HHTAUNDERS
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----114488 050233Z /62

O 050205Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 087125

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1/2

TAGS: MASS, IS, US, LE, PBOR, MOPS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND USE OF U.S. DEFENSE
ARTICLES

1. YOU SHOULD GET IN TOUCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH BEGIN
OR, IF HE IS NOT AVAILABLE, WITH WEIZMAN TO RAISE INTER-
RELATED PROBLEMS OF: (A) THE NEED FOR A PROMPT ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON; AND (B) THE REQUIREMENT
TO REPORT TO THE CONGRESS VIOLATIONS OF AGREED RESTRICTIONS
ON THE USE OR TRANSFER OF U.S.-FURNISHED MILITARY EQUIP-
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LAW REQUIRES.

2. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

-- THE ISRAELI PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF APRIL 3 REGARDING
THE THINNING OUT THAT HAD ALREADY OCCURRED AND DESCRIBING
ISRAELI PLANS TO COORDINATE WITH UNIFIL FUTURE WITHDRAWALS

WAS HELPFUL IN TAMPING DOWN PRESSURES FOR EARLY SC MEETING TO DEBATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. UN OFFICIALS HAVE SINCE DISCLOSED TO US THEIR DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ACTUAL IDF

PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL. WE BELIEVE WITHDRAWAL MUST TAKE PLACE MUCH MORE RAPIDLY AND VISIBLY IF THE CONCERNS OF THE UN, THE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS, THE ARAB STATES GENERALLY, AND THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS ARE TO BE DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY.

-- WE THEREFORE URGE ISRAEL TO WORK OUT WITH THE UN A WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE WITH AS MANY SPECIFICS AS POSSIBLE, AND TO SEE THAT IT IS PUBLICIZED. WITH THIS IN HAND, WE CAN PERHAPS AVOID OR POSTPONE THE CONTENTIOUS SC DEBATE WHICH WOULD NOT SERVE ISRAEL'S INTERESTS. WE OURSELVES HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT ISRAEL'S READINESS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON, BUT WE NEED CREDIBLE ASSURANCES IN THE FORM OF AGREED WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULES TO BE HELPFUL.

-- WE COULD NOT HOLD OFF NOTIFYING CONGRESS WHETHER VIOLATIONS OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OR TRANSFER OF U.S.-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT "MAY HAVE OCCURRED," AS REQUIRED BY THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT, UNTIL THE FULL IDF WITHDRAWAL HAD TAKEN PLACE. THERE IS A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR A "PROMPT" REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR THIS INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. IN ADDITION, THE
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PRESS HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY THE FACT THAT WE WILL HAVE TO REPORT SOON.

-- THERE ALSO REMAINS THE STILL UNRESOLVED PROBLEM OF THE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER TO LEBANESE FORCES OF CERTAIN U.S.-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT. A LIST OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS GIVEN TO US BY THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, IN FEBRUARY. ISRAEL WILL RECALL THAT OUR EXCHANGES ON THE DIVERSION OF U.S. EQUIPMENT TO LEBANESE FORCES STEMMED FROM THE ISRAELI MILITARY INCURSION INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON IN SEPTEMBER 1977. WE ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REPORT THIS UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER.

-- AS SOON AS THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN INFORMED, WE WILL BE SENDING TWO LETTERS TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

-- THE FIRST LETTER, INVOLVING THE USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE PRESENT ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATION IN LEBANON, CONSTITUTES THE REQUIRED REPORT TO CONGRESS WHEN WE RECEIVE INFORMATION THAT A SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION "MAY HAVE

OCCURRED." BEYOND THAT, A COUNTRY BECOMES INELIGIBLE FOR FMS IN THE EVENT OF A SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION HAVING OCCURRED OR STILL TAKING PLACE IF THE PRESIDENT SO DETERMINES. ONCE THAT DETERMINATION IS MADE, THE COUNTRY

REMAINS INELIGIBLE UNTIL THE VIOLATION CEASES AND THE PRESIDENT RECEIVES ADEQUATE ASSURANCES AGAINST RECURRENCE. THE QUESTION OF SUCH A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION CANNOT REALLY BE LAID TO REST UNTIL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON IS COMPLETE.

-- IN THAT FIRST LETTER, WE MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT MAKING A DETERMINATION THAT ISRAEL IS INELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES, FMS FINANCING, OR DELIVERIES.
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THE LETTER IMPLIES CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON WILL BE THE FACTOR DETERMINING WHETHER WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE THAT STEP.

-- THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM IS PROMPT ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH SC RESOLUTION 425, WHICH CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL FORTHWITH. IT IS CLEARLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND ISRAEL THAT WE NOT BE COMPELLED - BY A DELAY IN ISRAELI MILITARY WITHDRAWAL - TO MAKE A FIRM DETERMINATION THAT A SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION OF OUR AGREEMENTS HAS OCCURRED AT A TIME WHEN ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED ON THE GROUNDS OF SELF-DEFENSE. INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS ARE NOW BEING MADE BETWEEN THE WAY THE U.S. IS DEALING WITH ISRAEL AT THIS TIME AND THE WAY THE U.S. DEALT WITH TURKEY AFTER ITS INVASION OF CYPRUS.

-- AS FOR THE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT TO THE LEBANESE FORCES IN THE EARLIER PERIOD, WE ARE SENDING TO THE SAME TWO CHAIRMEN LETTERS CLASSIFIED SECRET.
UNDER OUR LAW, HOWEVER, WE NEED RIGHT AWAY AUTHORITATIVE ASSURANCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER TO ANY FORCES IN LEBANON OF THE DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PROVIDED BY THE U.S. UNDER AGREED TRANSFER LIMITATIONS.

-- THIS MEANS, SPECIFICALLY, THAT ISRAELI FORCES MUST TAKE BACK TO ISRAEL ALL DEFENSE ARTICLES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PROVIDED BY THE U.S. UNDER AGREED TRANSFER LIMITATIONS. NO SUCH ARTICLES SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND WITH THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, AND NO FURTHER SUPPLIES IF SUCH ARTICLES SHOULD BE MADE TO SUCH GROUPS.

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3. TEXTS OF LETTERS BY SEPTEL. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:VALERGA

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:VALERGA

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O 061006Z APR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 087125

NODIS

FOL STATE 087125 SENT ACTION TEL AVIV APR 5, 1978

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 087125

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FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1/2

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LEBANON IS COMPLETE.

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3. TEXT OF LETTERS BY SEPTTEL. VANCE UNQUOTE
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE087125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:JD
Enclosure: FOR AMB LEWIS, DC IS ALSO X1
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840150-1837, N780004-0265
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780489/aaaacxvc.tel
Line Count: 358
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c0faedb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3064445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND USE OF U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES
TAGS: MASS, PBOR, MOPS, IS, US, LE, UNIFIL
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c0faedb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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